

RECORD OF COMMUNICATION		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHONE CALL <input type="checkbox"/> DISCUSSION <input type="checkbox"/> FIELD TRIP <input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____	
(Record of item checked above)			
TO:	FROM:	DATE	
Gary Bondy (6H-EA)	Verne McFarland (6H-MC)	11/30/90	
		TIME	
		10:00 a.m.	
SUBJECT			
Discussion with Tony Gardner (PRC Environmental Management) re: activities and issues at the Arkwood Superfund Site.			
SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION			
<p>During his recent visit to Omaha, Arkansas, Tony interviewed over 100 citizens regarding their perceptions and concerns over the Arkwood site, incineration and Superfund. He also asked them about the petition circulated by Mass Merchandisers (PRP) opposing the selected remedy. The information obtained from these community interviews is being compiled and summarized by Carol Edwards in the PRC Chicago office, and will include responses and resolutions corresponding to each interview. This deliverable is due on 12/5/90.</p> <p>I asked Tony to briefly summarize salient issues and concerns that he encountered during the interviews, and these are listed below. If you have any questions or wish me to pursue any specific aspect of this information with Tony or Carol, please let me know.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many citizens do not trust EPA. They are concerned that EPA is devoting so much time and effort to the Arkwood site (which many people feel will "take care of itself eventually"), that perceived excessive air emissions from a local charcoal plant are being ignored (a concern that apparently has not been voiced before). 2. The Mayor of Omaha (and his wife) are strongly against the incinerator. They are upset at how long it has taken EPA to reach this point in the process, upset at the loss of commercial use of the property, and feel that the NPL status of the site caused a Tyson feed mill to choose another location for its new installation (the Mayor feels this was politically motivated). He also does not understand why Mass Merchandisers was not allowed to clean up the site 6 years ago "like they wanted to." 3. School issues: Due to the close proximity of the incinerator to the school, citizens are fearful that a) teachers will quit, and b) parents will not allow their children to attend school when incineration begins. 4. Residents who live near/adjacent to the site, outside Omaha city limits, do not understand why city officials and residents are so opposed to the remedy, especially since the site is not inside the city limits. These residents feel that since they do not pay city taxes, and they want the site contamination addressed, the city should not have anything to say about what is done at the site. <p>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. With regard to the petition, evidently most of the people who signed it were under the impression that the incinerator would be a permanent installation, and that EPA would bring in other wastes to incinerate in addition to the Arkwood wastes. Upon learning the facts, most of these individuals seemed relieved and less opposed. 6. Some residents asked Tony, "Why are you here?" They seemed to prefer that EPA simply tell the community what it intends to do, and then just do it rather than solicit public involvement (some days, you just can't win!). 7. With regard to local preferences for open house, most of the people interviewed wanted to see lots of graphics, slides, pictures and video rather than be given a lot of reading material and talk. 			
INFORMATION COPIES			
TO:			
Betty Williamson (6H-M), Brent Truskowski (6H-EA), CR file			

